

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 HA-05 /078 W
-----107703 122139Z /63

P R 122055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7083
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
UESUEBXAMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 9979
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJECT: MDB AND ARENA SENATE LEADERS CLASH--AGAIN

REF: BRASILIA 2847

1. IN THE SECOND OF THREE PREPARED SPEECHES ON THE SENATE FLOOR, MDB SENATRE LEADER BROSSARD APRIL 11 CRITICIATY ANALYZED THE ECONOMIC PART OF THE ANNUAL MESSAGE PRESIDENT GEISEL SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS UPON THE OPENING OF THE 1978 SESSION ON MARCH 1. IN HIS OVERVIEW STATEMENT TO THAT MESSAGE, GEISEL MADE NO NOTE-WORTHY CLAIMS--OTHER THAN STATING THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS NEGLIGIBLE IN BRAZIL--AND LIMITED HIMSELF TO RECITING WELL-KNOWN STATISTICS AND ACCEPTED GOB DOCTRINES. BROSSARD DISAGREED WITH SOME OF THE FORMER AND CHANNLENGED SOME OF THE TATTER. HIS REMARKS WERE PEPPERED WITH IRONY.

2. ARENA SENATRE LEADER REZENDE ROSE TO REPLY. IN HARSH, BITING LANGUAGE, HE AGAIN (REFTEL) ACCUSED BROSSARD OF BEING
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"SUBVERSIVE" AND OF EXERCISING "SYSTEMATIC OPPOSITION", HELD BROSSARD WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO CRITICIZE GEISEL'S MESSAGE, AND CHARGED BROSSARD WITH HAVING, IN AN UNSPECIFIED EARLIER ADDRESS, CALLED HIS ARENA COLLEAOUES AN "ALCATEIA" (TRANSLATABLE AS A PACK OF WOLVES OR A GANGE OF IMINALS). WITHOUT REGARD TO PARLIEMENTARY PROCEKRE,

BROSSARD IMMEDIATELY AND LOUDLY DENIED THE LATTER IMPROPRIETY AND WAS SOON JOINED IN PROTEST BY OTHER MDB SENATORS. AT THIS POINT, THE PRESIDING OFFICER (MDB SENATOR AMARAL PEIXOTO) SUSPENDED THE SESSION WHILE SOMEONE RUSHED TO GET SENATE PRESIDENT PETRONIO PORTELLA. THE LATTER ATLOWED THE SESSION TO RESUME AFTER URGING REZENDE TO MAINTAIN A "NECESSARY CALM". REZENDE, HOWEVER, IGNORED HIM, WHEREUPON THE MDB CONTINGENT WALKED OUT AND LATER ASKED PORTELLO TO "BETTER POLICE THE LANGUAGE IN PLENARY". PORTELLA PROMISED TO DO SO, REMARKING WORRIEDLY THAT "MATTERS ARE GOING IN CRESCENDO AND CAN REACH TERRIBLE PROPORTIONS".

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, BROSSA

D'S FIRST SPEECH

LAST WEEK HAD ALREADY

RUFFLED ARENA FEATHERS AND REZENDE HAD

CHARGED HIM WITH "SUBVERSIVE PURPOSE" BECAUSE OF HIS APRIL 6

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AN ACCUSATION MADE BY GENERAL

FIGUEIREDO. THE RIPPLES CAUSED BY THAT SEQUENCE WERE

DISSIPATED BY FIGUEI

EDO'S INDICRECT APOLOGY (REFTEL) WHICH

HE REPEATED PUBLICLY LATER ON. REZENDE, HOWEVER,

BROUGHT MATTERS TO A BOIL LAST FRIDAY (APRIL 7)

BY TELLING THE PRESS THAT NOON THAT HE WOULD HAVE A

"DECLARATION OF IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION" TO MAKE AT

SIX P.M. THE ATMOSPHERE IMMEDIATELY BECAME CHARGED WITH

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RUMORS OF CASSATION OR WORSE.FINALLY, PROMPTED BY MDB

PRESIDENT ULYSSES GUIMARAES AND OTHERS, REZENDE LAMELY

ACKNOWLEDGED ABOUT FIVE P.M. THAT HE WAS REFER

ING TO HIS

INCOME TAX RETURN--SIX P.M. BEING THE DEADLINE FOR FILING.

MOST POLITICAL AND PRESS OBSERVERS CONSIDERED THIS TO BE

IN

VERY POOR TASTE, BUT SOME--NOTABLY JORNAL DO BRASIL'S

CERLOS CESTELLO BRANCO--ALSO SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT IN FACT

HAVE BEEN A COVER-UP FOR SERIOUS ACTION AGAINST BROSSARD

THAT MAY ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATED THAT DAY BUT

DECIDED AGAINST AS TEMPER COOLED. ZE DOUBT THAT THE GOB

WISHES TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST BROSSARD, BUT

PRESSURES TO DO SO WILL INCREASE IF AND AS BROSSARD

CONTINUES--OR ESCETATES--WHAT ARENA (AND PRESUMABLY

MILITARY) HARDLINERS PERCEIVE AS HIS "CHALLENGE" TO THE

REGIME. BROSSARD'S THIRD SPEECH IN HIS SERIES IS SCHEDULED

FOR TOMORROW (APRIL 13).

JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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